

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Non-Implementation of PESA Act, 1996

944. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware regarding non-implementation of Panchayats Extension to the Scheduled Areas Act, 1996 in the State of Jharkhand;
- (b) the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Minister agrees that the non-implementation had resulted into great loss of the State and Tribal population of Jharkhand; and
- (d) the remedial measures proposed thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 is applicable to Scheduled Areas of nine States including Jharkhand. The State has enacted requisite compliance Legislation by amending the State Panchayati Raj Act. Elections to the Panchayati Raj Institutions are pending as the matter relating to reservation of posts is sub judice.

The Union of India has since filed a SLP in the Supreme Court of India (CC No. 12459/2005) seeking to quash the judgment of the Hon'ble Court of Jharkhand. The Chief Secretary to the Government of Jharkhand, Secretary, Rural Development, Government of Jharkhand and the Election Commission, Government of Jharkhand are proforma Respondents in this matter. The Minister of Panchayati Raj has also written to the Chief Minister Jharkhand for holding elections in the State at the earliest as per the Constitutional provisions of PESA. The Union of India has also requested Additional Solicitor General to make a special mention in the Supreme Court of India for an early hearing of the case. An interim Application has also been filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court for an early hearing. Panchayats elections will be held in the State on the

outcome of the SLP and Panchayati Raj Initiations will be placed in the State.

Raising constituency allowance, office expenses and salary for staff of MPs

945. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to increase the constituency allowance, the office expenses and salary for the staff of the Members of Parliament; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when a notification to that effect is likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) Yes Sir,

(b) The details are as under:-

(i) To raise the Constituency Allowance from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs.20,000/- p.m.

(ii) To raise the office expense allowance from Rs.14,000/- to Rs. 20,000 per month, of which, postage is being raised from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2000 per month, stationery from Rs. 3,000 to Rs.4,000 per month and staff assistance from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 14,000 per month (Rs. 10,000 for a computer assistant in Delhi and Rs.4,000 for an assistant in the constituency).

The notifications duly vetted by the Ministry of Law and Justice have been sent to the Lok Sabha Secretariat for necessary action.

Amendment in the Right to Information Act

†946. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are reconsidering to amend the Right to Information Act in order to keep the file notings outside its purview; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.